

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15

STR-08 CEA-02 NEA-10 RSR-01 /147 W
----- 105638

R 182239 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4359

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 2185

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, CI

SUBJECT: FINISHED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PURCHASES SHOULD PROVIDE
SOME RELIEF FOR CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 1909

1. CREDIT PURCHASE OF 380,000 BBL. GASOLINE AND KEROSENE
FROM MEXICO, 700,000 BBL. FUEL OIL FROM BRAZIL, AND 120,000
BBL. DIESEL FUEL FROM ARGENTINA; DIVERSION OF A SHIPMENT OF
10,000 METRIC TONS LIQUID PROPANE- BUTANE GAS (LPG) (ORIGINALLY
DESTINED FOR EXPORT TO ARGENTINA) TO DOMESTIC MARKET, AND
RECENT ARRIVAL OF GROUP OF PETROLEUM REFINERY TROUBLE SHOOTERS
FROM MEXICO MAY ENABLE CHILE TO AVOID WIDESPREAD FUEL
SHORTAGES IN JUNE. MEXICAN SHIPMENTS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE
CHILEAN PORTS EARLY JUNE WHEN GASOLINE RESERVES PREDICTED
TO BE AT LOWEST LEVELS. MEXICAN KEROSENE WILL INCREASE
PRESENTLY LOW STOCKS FOR PEAK CONSUMPTION MONTHS OF JULY
AND AUGUST. THE ADDITION OF BRAZILIAN FUEL OIL AND
ARGENTINIAN DIESEL FUEL SHOULD KEEP INDUSTRIAL AND PRIVATE
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CONSUMERS SUPPLIED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. LPG SHIPMENT DUE TO ARRIVE O/ A 20 MAY AND WILL BOLSTER SHRINKING RESERVES IN CHILE' S CENTRAL REGION. ONLY 60 PERCENT OF LPG DEMAND NOW BEING SATISFIED IN SANTIAGO AREA. RESULT HAS BEEN VOCAL CONSUMER ANGUISH AND GOC ATTEMPTS TO SHIFT BLAME ONTO OTHERS.

2. CONCEPCION REFINERY EXPECTED TO RECOMMENCE FULL OPERATIONS O/ A 25 MAY WHEN ONE OF TWO TOPPING UNITS AT CONCON WILL BE SHUT DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE. THUS, NATIONAL REFINERY PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BE ABOUT 70-75 PERCENT CAPACITY UNTIL JULY WHEN CONCON WORK SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION.

DAVIS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: ARA
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